The Conference further resolves that the States commit themselves to operationalizing 'open access' in the transmission and distribution sectors and resolve to issue policy directives to regulators, if necessary, to appropriately restructure cross subsidy surcharge, wheeling charges and other charges, with a view to augment the quantum of power flowing into the grid in the prevailing environment of shortages.

The Conference recognizes that the operationalizing of'open access' and competition in the supply of electricity to consumers would improve the supply position, help lower the tariffs and attract much needed investment in capacity addition; and resolved that the Centre and the States would unshackle generation, transmission and distribution to enhance the availability of electricity and its unhindred movement to consumers. The Centre and the States would also issue any necessary policy directives to any undertaking or regulator to this end, in the interest of consumers, within and outside the concerned State.

The Conference recognizes that the current level of AT&C losses constitute a grave threat to the viability of the power sector and the distribution segment, which is currently losing about Rs. 47,000 crores per annum, is the weakest link in the power system; and resolves that the States commit themselves to achieve and sustain drastic reduction in the overall AT&C losses through the next five years, and at least to a level of 15% in the APDRP project areas as has been demonstrated by the participating States in 163 towns and cities. Towards this end, the States with appropriate assistance from the Centre would establish the necessary baseline data and IT applications for energy accounting and auditing, besides ensuring a resolute elimination of electricity theft, which is negating various investments and initiatives for power sector reforms. It is further reiterated that where free or subsidized power is provided to a section of consumers, the State Government shall ensure upfront payment of the same to the utilities.

The Conference recognizes that there is a very significant potential of saving electricity through its efficient use; and resolves that States and the Centre should focus on Demand Side Management measures and ensure such interventions as would provide immediate results for saving electricity. These interventions could include bulk procurement and distribution of CFLs, adoption of the Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC), promoting and mandating the use of energy efficient pump sets and other energy efficient equipment and appliances, besides giving appropriate financial and tax incentives for their manufacture.

10. To periodically review the implementation of the resolutions adopted in the Conference, it is decided to set up a Standing Group of Power Ministers under the Chairmanship of the Union Power Minister to meet once a quarter.

Target for rural electrification

418. PROF.ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

whether Government has recently stated that every village of the country would be electrified by 2012;

if so, the present position of village electrification in the country;

whether the power production in the country is not sufficient to meet the demand of villages; and

if so, the plans to be formulated to generate power production during the present plan period?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

Out of a total of 593732 numbers of inhabited villages in the country, 487351 villages have been electrified leaving a balance of 106381 unelectrified villages up to 31.12.2007 (as per CEA).

and (d) To meet the growing need of power, capacity addition of 78,578 M W comprising 58,571 MW Thermal, 16,627 MW Hydro and 3380 MW from Nuclear has been planned during Eleventh Plan. In addition to above capacity addition planned from Conventional Sources, a capacity addition of 14,000 MW from Renewable Sources and 12,000 MW surplus power from Captive Plants is also expected during Eleventh Plan.

Decline in power supply

†419. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

whether supply of power has declined in the country;

if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Delhi and the reasons therefor;

the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to meet the shortage of power *C* in the country, particularly in Delhi; and

the power being generated by the States from their own resources, as on date?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) The total availability of power in the country during the current year (April, 2007 to January, 2008) Was 554,248 MU as compared to 520,507 MU during the corresponding period of last year, representing a growth of 6.5%.

(c) The steps taken/being taken to improve the power supply position in the country, include augmentation of generating capacity by over 78,500 MW during the Eleventh Plan, development of Ultra Mega Power Projects of 4,000"MW capacity each, improving performance of existing power stations, renovation, modernization and life extension of old and inefficient generating units, harnessing surplus captive power into the grid, strengthening of inter-State and inter-regional transmission capacity for optimum utilization of available power, promoting demand side management, energy efficiency and energy conservation measures and import of power from Bhutan.

At present a total allocation of 3099 MW has been made to Delhi from the Central Generating Stations. Memoranda of Understanding/Power Purchase Agreements have been signed by Delhi for availing power from various Central Generating Utilities, like, NTPC, Damodar Valley Corporation, National Hydro-electric Power Corporation & Tehri Hydro Development Corporation. By the Commonwealth Games, 2010, Delhi will receive power out of the joint venture - Aravali Thermal Power Project (TPP) (installed capacity 1500 MW),

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.